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# 2005 Conservation Security Program (CSP) Record Keeping Workbook

## Nevada Supplement 4

### WILDLIFE HABITAT

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Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Wildlife Habitat Self-Assessment

Nevada Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Nevada Quality Criteria Questions

For Tier III (or possibly Tier II) CSP designation, a producer is required to meet quality criteria for fish and wildlife habitat. By answering either “yes” or “N/A” to the following questions, the applicant self-certifies that the lands to be enrolled meet the minimum CSP requirements for fish and wildlife habitat.

### Streams (Intermittent and/or Perennial)

Question 1	Yes	No	N/A
1. Is there a stream (intermittent and/or perennial) containing fish within the property you wish to enroll? <div>If you answer “No”, skip to Question 2.</div>			
A) Channel Condition: Is the stream in a natural condition (that is, no more than 30 percent of the stream reach (within the property to be enrolled in CSP) has riprap, intentional channel straightening or channelization, excessive stream down-cutting or stream widening)?			
B) Flooding: During high flows, does the stream overtop its banks more often than once in 4 years?			
C) Riparian Vegetation: Does natural/native vegetation extend away from the banks on both sides of the stream at least the distance measured from channel bottom to top of bank? If natural vegetation covers less than this width, does native vegetation cover the entire active floodplain?			
D) Riparian Area: Within riparian areas, are activities being managed to prevent accelerated bank erosion and stream entrenchment (i.e., no excessive grazing or recreational use)?			
E) Bank Stability: Are streambanks stable (i.e., at least 50 percent of the total streambank area with no bank sloughing and, if present, there are only small areas of “human-induced”, excessive, bank erosion)?			
F) Water Appearance: Is stream water clear with only occasional cloudiness following a storm event and little algal growth and no oil sheen on water surface? <div>If water coming onto your property is cloudy and you do not add to the condition, answer “N/A”.</div>			
G) Water Quality: Is the stream excluded from adjacent feed lots or other livestock holding/feeding areas that confine animal movement for prolonged periods?			

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H) Barriers to Fish Movement: Is there unlimited movement to fish both upstream and downstream within the property to be enrolled in CSP (i.e., any barrier to fish movement [including drop structures, culverts, dams, diversions, etc.] is less than one-foot high)?			
I) Water Levels: Do seasonal irrigation water withdrawals inhibit movement of fish within the stream reach through the property to be enrolled in CSP?			
J) Diverted Water: If water is diverted to the enrolled land from a stream that has listed or proposed Threatened and/or Endangered fish species or Designated Critical Habitat, is the diversion/inlet structure screened to exclude fish in accordance to Federal or State guidelines? (Answer "N/A" if there are no listed Threatened or Endangered fish species present in the stream.)			

## Rangeland

Question 2	Yes,	No	N/A
2. Do you have rangeland in the area you wish to enroll? <div>If you answer "No", skip to Question 3.</div>			
A) Do the rangelands areas to be enrolled in the Conservation Security Program (CSP) meet the basic program requirements for rangeland as determined by your responses to questions on pages 13 and 14 of the CSP Self-Assessment Workbook (PA-1770, June 2004)?			
B) Do you practice prescribed grazing? Refer to Self-Assessment Workbook (PA-1770, June 2004) for definition of prescribed grazing.			
C) Do at least 75 percent of the rangeland plant communities in the areas to be enrolled in CSP presently support a mixture of native grasses, forbs (such as wild flowers), and woody vegetation?			
D) Do the rangeland plant communities in the offered area that support sagebrush have at least a 10 percent canopy cover of big sagebrush but not more than 25 percent (i.e., big sagebrush canopy is $\geq 10$ percent and $\leq 25$ percent)?			
E) Do the rangeland plant communities in the offered area that support sagebrush have an understory cover of grasses from April 15 to July 1 that averages five inches or taller (either grazed stubble or green growth)?			
F) Is there a water source available for wildlife within a 1 mile radius to at least 50 percent of the enrolled rangeland acres?			

# Wildlife Habitat Self-Assessment

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## Irrigated Pasture

Question 3	Yes	No	N/A
3. Do you have irrigated pasture in the area you wish to enroll? <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;">             If you answer "No", skip to Question 4.           </div>			
A) Do the pasture areas to be enrolled in CSP meet the basic program requirements for pastureland, as determined by your responses to Questions on pages 10, 11, and 12 of the CSP Self-Assessment Workbook (PA-1770, June 2004)?			
B) Do you practice prescribed grazing? (Refer to the CSP Self-Assessment Workbook, PA-1770, June 2004, for definition of prescribed grazing.)			
C) If water is diverted to the enrolled land from a stream that has Threatened and/or Endangered (listed or proposed) fish species or Designated Critical Habitat, is the inlet structure/pipe screened to exclude fish in accordance with Federal or State guidelines?  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">             Answer "N/A" if no listed Threatened or Endangered fish species present in stream or Critical Habitat is not designated.)           </div>			
D) Is the distance from the center of all pastures to perennial vegetative cover that is not mechanically harvested within ¼ mile from April 1 to July 15, or is 3 percent of the field located along the perimeter left unharvested during this period?			
E) Is wildlife water available within a 1/2 mile radius for 75 percent or more of the pasture land?			
F) Do the seeded/improved pastures to be enrolled in CSP include at least one legume or other forb in addition to grasses?			
G) Does perennial, undisturbed (not mechanically harvested), vegetative cover comprise at least 2 percent of the total area on your farm/ranch? (Includes such areas as non-irrigated odd spots [at least ¼ acre in size] of woody plants with mixed grasses and forbs in the understory; field borders; vegetated ditch banks; brushy draws; seeps; riparian areas; center pivot corners; and/or, windbreaks that are managed for wildlife.) Applicant needs to designate/delineate undisturbed area on aerial photo of property.			

# Wildlife Habitat Self-Assessment

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## Cropland or Hayland

Question 4	Yes	No	N/A
4. Do you have cropland or hayland in the area you wish to enroll? <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;">             If you answer "No", skip the rest of this section.           </div>			
A) Do the cropland/hayland areas to be enrolled in the Conservation Security Program (CSP) meet the basic program requirements for cropland/hayland as determined by your responses to questions on pages 7, 8, and 9 of the CSP Self-Assessment Workbook (PA-1770, June 2004)?			
B) If water is diverted to the enrolled land from a stream that has Threatened and/or Endangered (listed or proposed) fish species or Designated Critical Habitat, is the diversion/inlet structure screened to exclude fish according to Federal or State guidelines? (Answer "N/A" if no Threatened or Endangered fish species are present in the stream or Critical Habitat is not designated.)			
C) Is the distance from the center of each crop/hay field to an area of perennial vegetation (such as, pasture, range, etc.) that is not mechanically harvested 1/4 mile or less, from April 1 to July 15 (the nesting/fawning/lambing season)?			
D) For at least 75 percent of the hay/cropland area to be enrolled in CSP, is there water available to wildlife within 1/2 mile from April 1 to December 1?			
E) Does perennial, undisturbed (not mechanically harvested), vegetative cover comprise at least 2 percent of the total area on your farm/ranch? (Includes such areas as non-irrigated odd spots [at least 1/4 acre in size] of woody plants with mixed grasses and forbs in the understory; brushy draws; seeps; riparian areas; center pivot corners; and/or windbreaks that are managed for wildlife.) Applicant needs to designate/delineate undisturbed area on aerial photo of property.			

**If you answered "NO" to Questions 1A-1J; 2A-2F; 3A-3G; and/or 4A-4F, the land you wish to enroll DOES NOT meet the minimum criteria for wildlife habitat to enroll in Tier III (or possibly Tier II). Your local NRCS office can provide guidance on conservation practices and/or management needed to help you meet the minimum wildlife criteria for Tier III (or possibly Tier II).**